(b) whether it is a fact that any smallest reduction in percentage from 100% for any commodity would finally result in completely stopping such packing, because Government have no machinery to implement such laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sick Jute Mills

290. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of jute mills in the country have become chronically sick, with huge amounts outstanding to the banks, financial institutions and nearly two lakh workers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to save the jute industry and its workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Out of the 73 Jute Mills in the country two Jute Mills are laying closed for over twelve years. These are Kanpur and Katihar Jute Mills. Four Mills are incorporated outside the country & turned into sick units out of the balance of Jute Mills, 34 Jute Mills are sick. The sick Mills except the units incorporated outside the country are referred to BIFR, a quasi-judicial body, to examine the cases of rehabilitation of every sick unit.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps towards revitalisation of the Jute Industry;

(I) Objective demand stimulation by enacting jute packing materials (compulsory use of packing commodities) Act 1987.

(II) Placement of DGSD order for purchase of B T will Jute Bags on BICP cost plus basis.

(III) Continuation of Export Marketing Assistance on selected export items.

(IV) Development of value added diversified jute product under the UNDP assisted jute programme.

In addition, the following steps have been taken to back-up the Jute Diversification Programme.

—Implementation of Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme.

—setting up of National Centre for Jute Diversification.

—R&D support through various textiles research associations.

—Market support by Jute Manufactures development Council for Export promotion.

Recently the Govt. has launched Technological Upgradation Fund scheme for upgradation of plant and machinery.

Handloom Reservation Order

†291. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH;

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.